

*LW/C*

14. (Amended) A coil spreader system for use in and in combination with a plastic spiral in a plastic spiral bound book binding machine comprising a pair of first spreader members for significantly spreading apart respective a trailing and leading ends edge of said plastic spiral prior to entry of said plastic spiral into said respective a first and last holes hole of a row of holes in a book to be spirally bound, a second spreader member for significantly spreading apart a trailing edge of said plastic spiral at a trailing last hole of said row of holes, to compensate for said first and last holes having bridge distances from ends of said book greater than {the} a predetermined spacing of said holes, said pair of spreader members comprising two spreader members, one of said first spreader members member insertable within respective coils of said plastic spiral at respective points before {the} said leading edge of said spiral enters a said first hole and said second spreader member insertable within said plastic spiral after said plastic spiral enters said trailing last final hole and another of said spreader members insertable within respective coils of said spiral at respective points at the trailing edge of said spiral before entry into said last hole, each of said pair of spreader members comprising a base with a blade attached at an oblique angle, said blade having a surface with a curved contour with a rounded corner to spread the leading and trailing edges of said spiral without damage to the spiral.

15. (Unchanged) The coil spreader system of claim 14 with a pair of opposing elongated jaws with alternating projections and recesses therebetween,

one of said jaws being a fixed jaw horizontally disposed along and attached to a longitudinal frame of said binding machine and the other of said jaws being a movable jaw hinged to said longitudinal frame of said binding machine so as to be movable between an open position and a closed position in close proximity to said fixed jaw for clamping pages of said book in place with holes in alignment with said recesses in preparation for accepting said spiral and wherein

said spreader members are oppositely disposed respectively on said opposing fixed and movable jaws of said comb clamp.